

Frankford Shared Senior Housing Opens

Thursday, January 17, 2008

Bruce A. Scruton

Staff Writer

Herald News

FRANKFORD -- The County's shared houses for seniors formally opened Friday. But it will still be a few weeks until it opens for the four residents who have signed up to live in them.

A formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Knoll Shared Housing complex located near the Homestead was attended by Joseph Doria, New Jersey Commissioner of Community Affairs, but tenants can't move in yet because of a paperwork hurdle that has just been cleared in Washington, D.C.

As it stands, the first residents will move in on or about Feb. 1.

The snag in government clearances did create a slight problem for one of the first tenants, who already had given notice to her former landlord. However, the woman was placed at Knoll View and will remain there until the new facility is turned over to Knoll formally, said Lisa Reidinger, resident care specialist with Knoll Properties.

Both of the buildings have five bedrooms with complete baths, which are the private space for the residents. The common areas include a living room, dining room and kitchen as well as a laundry area.

Reidinger said that since the rents are subsidized by Community Affairs, review of the applications must go through the state.

She added that Knoll is still accepting applications from prospective tenants, and each resident must be at least 62 years old with an income of less than \$23,650 and tenants will pay 25 percent of their monthly income toward the rent.

Because the project, which has space for 10 residents, is being funded under a grant program from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, an additional federal environmental review, and the accompanying public comment period, had to be finished.

With that now out of the way, funds have been cleared and within a couple of weeks, the contractor, Deacon Homes, will turn the property over to Knoll.

"Governor (Jon S.) Corzine recognizes the need to provide quality affordable housing to New Jersey residents and families," Doria said of the project and noted it will provide seniors "the opportunity to have basic, decent, affordable housing."

Knoll Shared Housing is a partnership of the Sparta Ecumenical Council on Senior Citizen Housing, which sponsors Knoll Heights Village and Knoll View, and the Sussex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, which provided the five acres of land on which the two-building complex stands.

Reidinger said four women have already been accepted and will occupy the first building. The number of applicants will determine whether the second building will also be all female or will have all male residents.

Applications are available by calling (973) 729-4311.